

2006 Local Accomplishments

AID FOR TOWNS IN THE 6TH SENATE DISTRICT

A very important part of my job representing the people of the 6th state Senate District is ensuring New Britain, Berlin and Farmington receive their fair share of state funding. I am pleased to report the following grants and reimbursements from the state:

Total Education Grants	\$74,594,212
Town Aid Road Fund (TAR)	\$762,824
Mashantucket Pequot/Mohegan Grants	\$4,107,632
Local Capital Improvements (LoCIP)	\$1,213,229
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$11,422,588
Extra Property Tax Relief for 2006	\$1,933,358
Totals	\$94,033,843

This funding is an increase of \$2,655,359 over last year's total

New Britain High School Expansion—\$16 million

When the Board of Education approached me concerning the serious overcrowding problem at New Britain High School, I was able to work with legislative leaders to secure \$16 million to fund this project, which includes a Freshman Academy, temporary classrooms and an alternative behavior center.

Friendship Center—\$800,000

For many years, the Friendship Center has been not only an agency serving our most vulnerable residents, but also a good neighbor working to improve the community in the Arch Street Neighborhood. An \$800,000 authorization was made to the Friendship Center to allow the agency to expand its programs. These funds will be used to rehabilitate a vacant building on Arch Street for use by the center.

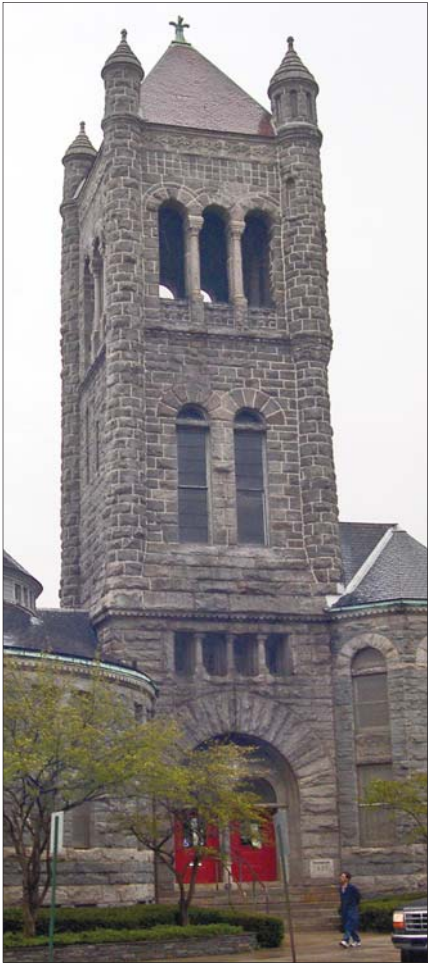
SAGE Park Berlin—\$100,000

Working with local officials in Berlin, \$100,000 was released by the State Bond Commission for needed repairs and improvements at Sage Park. This expenditure will result in safety improvements at the park and expanded Midget Football facilities.

Trinity on Main—\$500,000

The importance of downtown redevelopment has never been more evident. For too long there has been limited activity, growth and investment. Lately, we have begun to realize the potential for arts activity as a vehicle for economic investment with the opening of Trinity on Main and other

arts venues downtown. Even before the property transfer was completed, I was working on acquiring funding for the needed refurbishment of this historic building. Hopefully, these arts initiatives will become part of an integrated and well thought-out plan for downtown revitalization.



A Message to My Constituents



Dear Neighbors,

On May 3rd, the 2006 legislative session came to a close. Our state Constitution dictates the beginning and closing times for each legislative session and this year was the shortest possible—only 85 days. In this short time, the General Assembly passed significant initiatives to make Connecticut a better place to work, live and educate our children. I have included some highlights of the session in this newsletter.

I am especially proud that a bipartisan budget was adopted that provides tax relief for automobiles, real estate and businesses while returning money to cities and towns to help hold down local property taxes. The budget also deposits nearly \$200 million in the state's "Rainy Day Fund."

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Donald DeFronzo

Donald DeFronzo
State Senator, 6th District

Stay Informed...

For the latest information on the issues affecting your district, please visit my Web site:
www.senatedems.ct.gov/DeFronzo.html



TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION on any of the following issues, fill out this form and mail it to me, e-mail or call my office. Make sure to give your name and mailing address and indicate which issues you're interested in. My contact information is on the mailing address panel.

- ☐ Seniors
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Land Use
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Crime
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Children
- ☐ Municipalities

Name:

Address:

Town: Zip:

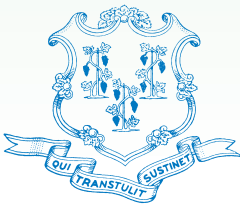
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Working together,
we have made
a difference for
the 6th District
communities of
New Britain,
Berlin and
Farmington.



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CONNECTICUT JOBS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

2006 Legislative Initiatives

STATE SENATOR DONALD DEFRONZO 6TH DISTRICT



A recent study probably shocked the state with the information that since 1991, Connecticut has experienced no net job growth. My Senate Democratic colleagues and I initiated a comprehensive plan to address the need for job growth in order to steer our state toward a brighter future. Our legislative package invests in education, jobs, university/business partnerships, transportation improvements, and the promotion of promising fuel cell technologies that have been developed right here in our own backyard.

Highlights of our successful initiative include:

- **Elimination of the manufacturing machinery and equipment property tax** to attract more manufacturing jobs to Connecticut, especially the cutting-edge, precision manufacturing that is critical to our future economy
- **Linking promising new businesses to university expertise** that can help bring innovative products to market
- **More funding for incumbent worker training programs**, provided by regional workforce development boards, to help workers learn new and valuable skills
- **Creation of business incubators to help grow the small business ideas** that will fuel our future economy and improve job creation across the state
- **Development Research and Economic Assistance Matching (DREAM) grants** that supplement and increase small businesses' access to federal research grants
- **A Business Advocate's office** to serve as a one-stop contact point for businesses to access government assistance and cut through red tape
- **Keeping more engineering and doctoral research graduates in Connecticut** through a 'Scholar-to-Work' system which ensures that innovation and creativity will remain a hallmark of Connecticut's future in the growing world marketplace
- **A \$4 million commitment to summer youth job experiences**
- **Promoting nanotechnology**—an industry that works at the molecular level—to establish Connecticut as a leader in developing complex materials sold to businesses around the world

Working for Connecticut's Future

Taking a Stand Against Underage Drinking

House parties pose a significant risk to our young people who consume alcohol on private property. The General Assembly passed a new law this session that makes it a crime to knowingly allow underage drinking on private property or to do nothing to prevent such activity. This legislation also extends the law prohibiting the possession of alcohol by a minor on public property to all private property as well.

Energy Efficiency

To help residents with energy costs, we passed legislation last October that exempted certain weatherization products—such as insulation, programmable thermostats, and energy-efficient furnaces and boilers—from the state sales tax. This session, we extended the exemption until June 30, 2007. We also passed legislation that requires certain state construction projects to meet stricter energy and environmental standards. This will help save state taxpayers money while promoting energy efficiency.

Health Insurance Coverage for Breast Cancer Screening

Early and accurate diagnosis is the key to the most effective treatment of breast cancer. Due to new legislation we passed this year, certain insurance companies will be required to cover comprehensive ultrasound screening for women with increased risk factors for breast cancer, as well as those whose mammograms indicate dense breast tissue. This law will help more women gain access to the best screening tools medical science can offer.

Hospital-Acquired Infections

We have all heard about people who went into hospitals to get better, but unfortunately developed infections after being admitted. A new law will create a reporting system, providing the public with necessary information to compare infection rates at health care facilities in Connecticut. The system may also provide information about methods used to prevent the spread of infection. Beginning October 2008, this information will be published on a state Web site.



I attended the ground-breaking of the \$52 million, phase 1 expansion of Tunxis Community College.



Recognizing Our Veterans

The debt owed our state veterans can never be paid in full. During the 2006 session, the legislature continued



to recognize the service of our brave men and women by passing new laws aimed at paying part of this debt. These new laws include exempting disability payments from determining eligibility for certain income-based property tax exemptions for veterans, extending the same protections to state service members assigned to state duties as they would be entitled to on federal duty, and expanding the definition of veteran to include reservists and National Guardsmen.

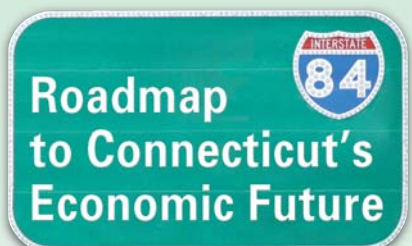
Mandatory Minimum Sentences for Sexual Assault

There must be zero tolerance for sexual predators who prey on our children. The state Senate passed a bill this session that would have toughened the laws against these dangerous individuals. This bill would have increased the minimum mandatory sentence to 25 years in prison for first-degree sexual assault against those under the age of 16, and would have put these criminals away for life if they were convicted twice of assaulting someone under the age of 13. In addition, this legislation would have created a minimum 25-year sentence for someone promoting the prostitution of someone under the age of 13. Unfortunately, this bill was not enacted into law.

Campaign Finance Reform and Ethics

We continued to strengthen our ethics laws in response to unprecedented corruption that occurred in our state. Legislation this year prohibits a governor's spouse from receiving honoraria and bans a governor from lobbying

the state for at least one year after leaving office. We also continued to improve our strongest-in-the-nation campaign finance reform legislation by protecting the system's integrity in the event of a court challenge and further limiting political action committees (PACs).



The gridlock that clogs our highways poses a significant threat to Connecticut's economic future. The General Assembly passed ground breaking legislation that makes major investments in mass transit and plans for our future transportation infrastructure. This new act provides \$1 billion for targeted transportation projects and commits \$1.3 billion for future projects including:

- Creation of the New Haven to Springfield commuter rail, creation of the New Britain to Hartford Busway, and significant improvements to branch lines, rail stations and parking facilities on the New Haven Line and Shoreline East
- Commissioning of several studies regarding the current state of our infrastructure and potential new initiatives including targeted road expansions and commuter rail in Eastern Connecticut (New London to Worcester)
- Authorizing state dollars to encourage transit-oriented development and locating of businesses near mass transit